

Two Malaysian Mountains

Fraser's Hill & Trus Madi

A Greentours Itinerary

Day 1

Depart UK

Day 2(am)

Arrive Kuala Lumpur and transfer to Fraser's Hill

After an overnight journey our flight arrives into Kuala Lumpur early in the morning and we'll soon be on the road out of the capital heading up into the hills where we'll settle into MCM Nature Discovery Villa in Fraser's Hill. We'll find our rooms and go for lunch, our first taste of the of the wonderful Malaysian fare on offer. There's an interesting selection of dishes from around the world too, including those famed mushy peas!

Days 2(pm) – 8(am)

Fraser's Hill

Though hardly more than a thousand metres above the surrounding monocultured plains Fraser's Hill offers a glimpse into a bygone era in more ways than one. It gained prominence initially as a colonial-era hill station due to the cooler climate and beautiful natural environment. More recently it has been the nature itself that has bought fame, the birdwatching is truly excellent, but now it is just as much the weird and wonderful insect life that draws naturalists from around the globe.

For those who are raring to go after our first lunch we'll be straight out into the field around our hotel for there's so much to see. The insect life will be immediately apparent and very very photogenic. Maybe we'll come cross our first *Cyclommatus lunifer*, an impressive beast of a stag-beetle. There's also the spectacular sleek Chiron Beetle, a Rhinoceros Beetle with a shiny golden-green carapace. We'll have to wait for nightfall for the big explosion of moths to occur, but in the meantime we are sure to find some rather nice day-flying species such as the Tropical Swallowtail Moth, *Lyssa zampa*. And plentiful butterflies too with nice species such as Indian Yellow Nawab, Staff Sergeant, fast flying Tawny Rajah and the fabulous Green Dragonail.

Our accommodation is right in the forest and runs its own light traps! Every night these are full of some of the insect world's most beautiful and impressive insects. The elegant long-tailed Malaysian Moon-Moth is a frequent visitor and so too huge *Archaeoattacus malayanus*, one of the world's largest species with a wingspan reaching 25 centimetres. Almost as big is the immense Atlas Moth, a moth with a trick or two up its sleeves. When threatened it drops to the ground and flaps its wings – and

then in bears an uncanny it rather bizarre resemblance to a cobra! There's a third species of Atlas Moth here. Kohl's Atlas Moth is a real beauty, the tan-coloured wings crossed by black and white etchings, the whole with a lurid pink streak across the middle of all four wings! Hawkmoths are many and varied and we can expect to see exceptional numbers of these iconic moths around our hotel notably Mango Hawkmoth, Jade Hawkmoth, Yam Hawkmoth, Cinnamon Gliding Hawkmoth, and the wonderfully camouflaged *Megacorma obliqua*. Also the Greater Deaths-head Hawkmoth, *Amphypterus masoni*, *Marumba spectabilis*, and the elegantly striped *Marumba tigrina*. Amongst the more spectacular species are yellow *Loepa lampei* and the equally brilliant *Loepa siamensis*. We'll see stunning red and mustard Barsine *rubricostata*, the magnificent Hearsey's Owl Moth, vibrant red *Alompra roepkei*, plums and custard *Plutodes flavescens*, and lots of lovely red, orange and white *Cyana* moth species. *Scopula divisaria* is studded with emeralds whilst *Calymera picta* looks like a particularly striking Victorian brooch. We'll marvel at the fabulous leaf-mimic *Tridrepana subtusmaculata*, and enjoy the beautiful moss-dusted *Maxates thetydaria* and absurdly ornamented *Callopietria ludovici*. We'll find delicately lined *Ourapteryx claretta*, speckled *Lymantria narindra*, lime *Agathia codina* and even greener *Fascellina plagiata*. Some take the art of camouflage to a higher level - *Apsarasa radicans* looks like it has had a rather poor stitch job whereas *Fritillinnys clathraria* appears to have bits pecked out all over!

The lights don't just bring in moths, there's all manner of other wonderful invertebrates such as the impressive Atlas Beetle *Chalcosoma atlas*, Giant Honey Bee, and cobalt-blue Cerulean Carpenter. In the forest around us we'll find the weird Assassin Bug *Epidaus famulus*, the extraordinarily beautiful Long-tailed Semi-slug, and an abundance of butterflies including the Blue Admiral and Malayan Jezebel. This will be our first chance to enjoy the magnificent green, black and red Rajah Brooke's Birdwings. Some other winged glories to keep us going in daylight hours are Common Mapwing, elegant Pallid Faun, well-named Malayan Sunbeam, and the rather clumsily-named Blue Leaf Blue. Spiders include the Malaysian Purple-femur Tarantula and we'll hope to find the Malayan Flying Frog. Birdlife is excellent with many fine species such as Blue Nuthatch, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Red-headed Trogon, Silver-eared Mesia and Fire-tufted Barbet.

Day 8(pm)

Kuala Lumpur to Kota Kinabalu

During the afternoon of Day 8 we'll take a flight to Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, on the island of Borneo, and stay the night in the city before heading up to Trus Madi the next morning.

Days 9(pm)- 15(am)

Gunung Trus Madi and the Trus Madi Entomology Camp

Gunung Trus Madi is after Mount Kinabalu the second highest of Sabah's mountains, its peaks rising to 2642m with stunted Rhododendron bedecked forest at the top. Indeed Trus Madi's biological diversity is legend partly as a consequence of having a such a variety of forest types in close proximity to each other - lowland mixed dipterocarp, hill mixed dipterocarp forest, lower montane forest, upper montane forest, and summit scrub. Sitting right in the middle of it all is the amazing Trus Madi Entomology Camp deep in lush forests at just over 1100m above sea-level. Tens of thousands of hectares of the mountain here are fully protected as a Class 1 Forestry Reserve.

The Trus Madi Entomology Camp (and by the way, we use the deluxe rooms!) is perhaps unique in that it specialises in insects and other flying invertebrates with more than twelve permanent light traps strategically positioned at the edge of mountain ridges or on the sides of the mountain, all overlooking vast forested areas. Over ten thousand species of moth have already been recorded here!

The light traps are operated nightly from 8pm until 5am and every night they are covered! This is one of the mothiest places in the World. Sitting pretty amongst an abundance of weird and wonderful smaller species are a great diversity of Hawkmoths and bigger still the fabulous Atlas Moths *Archaeoattracus staudinger* and *Archaeoattracus atlas*. After our time on the mainland we'll by now be familiar with many of the main groups of insects which will stand us in good stead as here are so many new ones! There's chocolate in custard *Plutodes cyclaria*, various luminous lime-green *Agathias*, *Eucyclodes gavissima* whose green wings are crossed by forked lightening, and the lovely *Barsine* moths, all complex patterns of red, yellow, orange and white. We'll marvel at gorgeous lichen-mimic *Tambas*, whilst *Locharna limbata*'s terrier-hairy head is made even more bizarre by the shimmering blue eye-spots within. *Masca* and *Claterna* moths sit facing you looking like they are going to jump up and argue the toss. There's exquisite little *Cossidias*, double-winged *Ortoplas* and intricate and brilliant *Siglophoras*. *Sinna floralis* is all bright yellow and red. Weirdest moth prize though might in the end be taken by the *Sacadas* that look more like a bird or a robot than a moth. *Goganas* have an amazing variety of weird, often wide, wing shapes and we'll see hook-winged *Tridrepanas*, windowed *Macrauzatas*, brilliant lemon *Celerna signata*, raspberry-ripple *Fotheabathra venusta*, and *Horithyatira decorata* whose specific name says it all. Many of the World's most beautiful moths are found in the *Saturnidae* and at least three species of these spectacular insects are found around the centre's lights. There's intricately-patterned yellow *Lemaireia loepoides*, many-shades-of-green *Antheraea rosieri*, and the stunning orange, pink and yellow *Antheraea larissa*.

Butterflies are varied with many highlights, notably Rajah Brooke's Birdwing and the Green Dragontail, Common and Straight-lined Mapwings, and the Great Orange-tip.

Lantern bugs of the *Fulgoridae* plant hopper family do not emit light but they are colourful. Among the *Fulgoridae* we'll see is the common *Pyrops sultana* whose body is white and it has an orange snout, part of its inflated head. Cicadas are ever-present and one of the loudest and most beautiful is *Tacua speciosa*. Giant Three-horned Rhinoceros Beetle, *Chalcosoma moellenkampi*, is one of the more common beetles that came to the screens at night. On rocks we'll find the extraordinary *Paraphyllum antennatum*, a pygmy grasshopper that mimics dead leaves. If we can find a Boxer Mantis (*Astyliasula* sp) it will be a tour highlight but there are many other stunning mantids to be found such as *Theopompa borneana*, a 'bark' mantis, and the Yellow Orchid Mantis. Other highlights might be the staggering Blue Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa tumida*), or various ornamented Assassin Bugs, or perhaps the various spectacular Dobsonflies that visit the light traps. Some of Borneo's more unusual mammals can be seen around the accommodation, notably Maroon Langur, Whitehead's Squirrel and Masked Palm Civet. There are hides so that we can watch and photograph some wonderful game birds such as Bulwer's Pheasant, and Crested, Red-breasted and Crimson-Headed Partridges. Other highlights will be Rhinoceros Hornbills and Bornean Banded Pitta.

Day 15(pm)

Depart from Kota Kinabalu

During the afternoon of Day 15 we'll descend to Sabah's capital hopefully having time to make a stop for two rather special plant species en route (if we didn't stop on the way up). The first is the pitcher plant *Nepenthes reinwardtiana* and the other is *Rafflesia pricei*, a vine with one of the largest flowers in the world. Once in Kota Kinabalu we'll take an evening flight to Kuala Lumpur to connect with the midnight flight back to Europe.

Day 16

Arrive UK/Europe

If you would like to ask about any other aspect of this holiday, please call 01298 83563 or email us at enquiries@greentours.co.uk.

To Book a on this Holiday please fill in the booking form which you can download from www.greentours.co.uk (also found in the Greentours brochure) and post to Greentours, 8 Eliot Close, Armitage, Rugeley, WS15 4UP, UK. Tel +44 (0)1298 83563. After booking your place you'll receive a confirmation letter and a detailed information pack will be dispatched twelve weeks prior to departure. Moth, odonata and bird checklists are available!